

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSCE-00 INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00
NSAE-00 PM-03 DODE-00 SP-02 ACDA-10 IO-06 TRSE-00
SSO-00 PA-01 /050 W
-----034009 121833Z /45

O R 121739Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9317
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
USELM LIVE OAK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 10771

LIMDIS

USELMLO FOR US EYES ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, BQG
SUBJECT: THE TRANSIT ROUTES TO BERLIN AND CDU
COMMEMORATION OF THE 17TH OF JUNE

REF: (A) 77 BONN 10111 AND PREVIOUS
(B) 77 BONN 8611 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY. THE CDU APPARENTLY IS NOT PLANNING A
"STERNFAHRT" TO BERLIN IN CONNECTION WITH THE OBSERVANCE
THIS YEAR OF THE 17TH OF JUNE. GDR HARASSMENT OF
TRAVELERS USING THE TRANSIT ROUTES TO BERLIN DURING THAT
TIME IS THUS IMPROBABLE, BUT THE POSSIBILITY, OF COURSE,
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CANNOT BE EXCLUDED. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING THE PAST FEW BONN GROUP MEETINGS, THE ALLIED
REPS HAVE EXPRESSED TO THE FRG THEIR HOPE THAT THE CDU
COMMEMORATION IN BERLIN THIS YEAR OF THE 17TH OF JUNE
(THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1953 UPRISING OF WORKERS IN
EAST BERLIN) BE DONE IN SUCH A WAY AS TO AVOID DIFFI-

CULTIES ON THE TRANSIT ROUTES TO THE CITY. THEY RECALLED IN PARTICULAR THE "STERNFAHRT" (SEVERAL MOTOR-CADES STARTING FROM DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS AND CONVERGING ON A SINGLE POINT) TO BERLIN IN 1976, WHICH RESULTED IN THE TURNING BACK OF THIRTEEN BUSES BY GDR AUTHORITIES. THEY ALSO RECALLED THAT PLANS FOR A STERNFAHRT IN CONNECTION WITH LAST YEAR'S 17TH OF JUNE WERE DROPPED AFTER THE FRG GOVERNMENT DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH CDU LEADER HELMUT KOHL (REF B). THE GDR DID NOT INTERFERE WITH TRANSIT TRAVELERS THEN NOR IN CONNECTION WITH LAST YEAR'S COMMEMORATION OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE BUILDING OF THE BERLIN WALL ON AUGUST 13. IN BOTH OF THESE CASES, PEOPLE TRAVELING TO BERLIN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMEMORATIONS DID SO ON A PRIVATE BASIS. SOME BUSES APPARENTLY WERE USED, BUT IT WAS NOT PUBLICIZED OR ORGANIZED NATIONWIDE.

2. AT THE JUNE 9 BONN GROUP MEETING, THE FRG REP (VON BRAUNMUEHL) REPORTED THAT HE HAD LEARNED THAT MINISTER FOR INNER-GERMAN AFFAIRS FRANKE HAD SENT HELMUT KOHL A LETTER ON JANUARY 17, 1978 IN WHICH KOHL WAS ASKED THAT CDU PLANS FOR THIS YEAR'S 17TH OF JUNE BE MADE SO AS TO AVOID TRANSIT ROUTE PROBLEMS.

3. VON BRAUNMUEHL ALSO SAID THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAD SENT A LETTER TO THE CHANCELLERY ASSOCIATING ITSELF WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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ALLIED VIEWS ON A POSSIBLE STERNFAHRT. HE SAID THAT MINISTER OF STATE WISHNEWSKI DISCUSSED THE CONTENTS OF THIS SECOND LETTER WITH HELMUT KOHL. AS A RESULT, KOHL SAID HE WOULD TALK TO THE ORGANIZERS OF THE COMMEMORATION.

4. VON BRAUNMUEHL SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT IN ANY EVENT THE CDU ORGANIZERS HAD NOT BEEN PLANNING A STERNFAHRT. ON THE CDU PROGRAM IN BERLIN, HE PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING:

A. JUNE 16

--AFTERNOON - JUNGE UNION (YOUTH AFFILIATE OF CDU/CSU) INFORMATION STANDS AND STREET DISCUSSIONS IN THE BERLIN DISTRICTS.

--6:00 P.M. - RALLY ON KONRAD-ADENAUER-PLATZ (SPEAKERS: LORENZ, KOHL, WISSMAN), FOLLOWED BY MARCH TO TAVERNE ON LUETZOW-PLATZ.

--EVENING - GET-TOGETHER WITH MUSICAL ACCOMPANI-

MENT OF FRIENDS OF THE JU AT TAVERNE -

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SUPPER.

B. JUNE 17

--9:30 A.M. - BREAKFAST IN TAVERNE.

--10:00 AM - PUBLIC RALLY IN TAVERNE (INTRO BY
KUNZE AND LUMMER; SPEAKERS: PROF. JENS
HACKER AND DR. NIETSCHE). TWO WORKING
GROUPS WILL BE ESTABLISHED. A JOINT
RESOLUTION WILL CONCLUDE THE MEETING.

--12:30 PM - LUNCH

--1:00 P.M. - MARCH FROM TAVERNE TO POTSDAMER PLATZ
WITH CONCLUDING RALLY.

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5. COMMENT: BASED ON LAST YEAR'S INCIDENT-FREE
COMMEMORATIONS OF JUNE 17 AND AUGUST 13 AND THE LACK OF
CDU PLANS FOR A STERNFAHRT FOR THIS YEAR'S 17TH OF JUNE
OBSERVANCE, WE HAVE GOOD REASON TO HOPE FOR A QUIET
WEEKEND. IT CANNOT BE RULED OUT, OF COURSE, THAT THE
GDR WILL REACT TO THE COMMEMORATION BY HARASSING OR
TURNING BACK FRG PARTICIPANTS WHO WISH TO USE THE TRANSIT
ROUTES TO TRAVEL TO BERLIN, BUT THE ABSENCE SO FAR OF
ANY GDR STATEMENTS TO THIS EFFECT--IN CONTRAST TO LAST
YEAR'S 17TH OF JUNE CELEBRATION--IS ANOTHER INDICATION
THAT THEY PROBABLY WILL NOT.
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